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APR 1 03 2002

Attorney Docket No. 980126CIP/HG

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Nobufusa SERIZAWA et al.

Serial No. : 09/499,⁴⁴⁻¹⁶⁴²622

Filed : February 9, 2000

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Art Unit : 1642

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Examiner : Ungar

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) A copy of a Communication and Search Report dated March 7, 2002, which issued in a counterpart European application;
- (2) Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that an initialed copy of the form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record; and
- (3) Copies of the publications cited in said Form PTO/SB/08A.

Each of the cited publications is considered relevant or material to the patentability of the present invention in view of the citation thereof in said Search Report.

Said Search Report and said publications are in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of

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Melissa Marks HJS

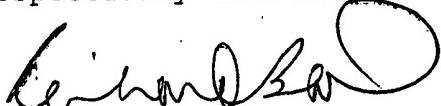
In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

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relevance.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publications be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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RSB/mbm

Enclosures: (1) copy of European Search Report
(2) FORM PTO/SB/08A
(3) publications identified therein